

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY (Chapter I of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Rule 44bis)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 04R00718WO00	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See item 4 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/012201	International filing date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 25 August 2004 (25.08.2004)	Priority date (<i>day/month/year</i>) 27 August 2003 (27.08.2003)	
International Patent Classification (8th edition unless older edition indicated) See relevant information in Form PCT/ISA/237			
Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA			

1. This international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) is issued by the International Bureau on behalf of the International Searching Authority under Rule 44 bis.1(a).

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.

In the attached sheets, any reference to the written opinion of the International Searching Authority should be read as a reference to the international preliminary report on patentability (Chapter I) instead.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

4. The International Bureau will communicate this report to designated Offices in accordance with Rules 44bis.3(c) and 93bis.1 but not, except where the applicant makes an express request under Article 23(2), before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date (Rule 44bis .2).

Date of issuance of this report
12 June 2006 (12.06.2006)

Authorized officer

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Form PCT/IB/373 (January 2004)

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

To:

PCT

**WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY**

(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

		Date of mailing (day/month/year) 21.12.2004
Applicant's or agent's file reference 04R00718W000		FOR FURTHER ACTION See paragraph 2 below
International application No. PCT/JP2004/012201	International filing date (day/month/year) 25.08.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 27.08.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC H01N1/21, 1/44, G06F12/14, G06F12/14, G09C1/00		
Applicant SHARP KABUSHIKI KAISHA		

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Box No. I	Basis of the opinion										
Box No. II	Priority										
Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability										
Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention										
Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement										
Box No. VI	Certain documents cited										
Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application										
Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application										

2. **FURTHER ACTION**

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA") except that this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66.1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of 3 months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220.

3. For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/012201

Box No. I	Basis of this opinion
1.	With regard to the language, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item. <input type="checkbox"/> This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language _____, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2.	With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of: a. type of material <input type="checkbox"/> a sequence listing <input type="checkbox"/> table(s) related to the sequence listing b. format of material <input type="checkbox"/> in written format <input type="checkbox"/> in computer readable form c. time of filing/furnishing <input type="checkbox"/> contained in the international application as filed. <input type="checkbox"/> filed together with the international application in computer readable form. <input type="checkbox"/> furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3.	<input type="checkbox"/> In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table(s) relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4.	Additional comments:

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/012201

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement																										
<p>1. Statement</p> <table> <tr> <td>Novelty (N)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-5</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Inventive step (IS)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-5</td> <td>NO</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Industrial applicability (IA)</td> <td>Claims</td> <td>1-5</td> <td>YES</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>Claims</td> <td></td> <td>NO</td> </tr> </table>				Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES		Claims		NO	Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES		Claims	1-5	NO	Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES		Claims		NO
Novelty (N)	Claims	1-5	YES																								
	Claims		NO																								
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	Claims	1-5	NO																								
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-5	YES																								
	Claims		NO																								
<p>2. Citations and explanations:</p> <p>Document 1: JP 2000-244753 A (Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.), 8 September 2000, entire text (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 2: JP 11-275326 A (Canon Inc.), 8 October 1999, entire text (Family: none)</p> <p>Document 3: JP 05-022614 A (Matsushita Graphic Communication Systems, Inc.), 29 January 1993, entire text (Family: none)</p> <p>The invention set forth in claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 and 2 cited in the international search report. A person skilled in the art could easily conceive of using the constitution wherein a protected image is not deleted even when there is no available space in a memory box, the constitution wherein the input of a password is requested in order to carry out an operation on a protected image, and the constitution wherein a non-protected image is deleted, each of which is disclosed in document 2, with the constitution wherein image data stored in image memory is designated, and the designated image data is concealed, disclosed in document 1.</p>																											

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

International application No.
PCT/JP2004/012201

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

The invention set forth in claims 2 and 3 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report. A person skilled in the art could easily conceive of using the constitution wherein a determination as to whether or not to carry out concealment is made according to whether a concealment device is in an operational or a non-operational status, disclosed in document 3, with the constitution disclosed in document 1.

The invention set forth in claims 4 and 5 does not involve an inventive step in the light of documents 1 to 3 cited in the international search report. Document 1 discloses a constitution for encoding and decoding, and document 2 discloses a constitution for password input.